



August 23, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

*RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations (WT Docket No. 11-65).*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The Sault Area Chamber of Commerce, the primary business organization in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan, would like to express support for the merger proposed in the docket cited above.

Sault Ste Marie is the county seat of Chippewa County, and its primary industry is tourism although a manufacturing base is growing as well.

The area, in order to continue developing a business environment conducive to manufacturing (and the local suppliers that can support manufacturers), demands access to a mobile broadband network that is in keeping with the needs of such businesses. It has become clear that wireless is no longer just about phone calls; companies are using smartphones as ancillary or even substitute devices for the computer, putting their processes, databases and forms in "cloud" websites that can be accessed by a smartphone anywhere.

These applications must be supported by a state-of-the-art network, currently identified as the 4G LTE generation by wireless carriers. A merger of AT&T and T-Mobile would bring the Upper Peninsula that much closer to having access to such a network.

It goes without saying that economies depend on basic infrastructure – natural resources, transportation, and communications to name but a few. In order for the Upper Peninsula, Michigan and the rest of the country to remain competitive, we must allow wireless providers to deploy networks that offer us the greatest opportunities for economic growth.

Such urgency will, I hope, result in a speedy approval of this merger.

Sincerely,

Leisa Mansfield  
Executive Director  
Sault Area Chamber of Commerce  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI

cc: FCC Commissioners Michael Copps, Robert McDowell, Mignon Clyburn